

When you
pray,
when you
give...

Ames United Church of Christ
Sunday, February 3, 2019

Welcome to Ames UCC! In keeping with the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome all people of any age, gender, race, culture, ability, sexual orientation, or gender identity into our community of faith and affirm the worth of all people as unique individuals made in God's image. We are open to the special gifts that each person brings and invite each one to participate in the life of our church.

ABOUT WORSHIP AT AMES UCC

Our church is the inheritor of many powerful worship traditions and the adopter of new, moving innovations. But whichever element serves the needs of the day (in terms of scripture, season, or society), each service is developed by members of the church and staff to function as a journey. Our journey takes the individual toward God, into the body of Christ, and then back out to the world with the strength of the Holy Spirit. Along the way we may laugh, we may cry, we may experience deep silence. In each, we embody and come to know more deeply what it means to be a Christian in such a time as this: a servant of the power that calls us together and sends us out to be the eyes, hands, and feet of justice in the world. We hope that you leave today feeling connected, renewed, and in relationship with the holy.

Our deacon, ushers, and greeters for today are Barbara Hauerrberg, Sue Lamont, Kim Spangler, John Uitermarkt, and Marge Uitermarkt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

CENTERING MUSIC

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP David Sheridan

A formal and mutual invitation to move into the worship experience.

One: Some take pride in cars, and some in houses,

Many: **But our pride is in HaShem, the Name, our God.**

One: Some heap up empty flattery, so as to be heard,

Many: **But our pride is in HaShem, the Name, our God.**

One: Some fast to look dismal and post all day long to be noticed,

Many: **But our pride is in HaShem, the Name, our God.**

HYMN “Praise to the Living God,” Hymn 8

Singing is one way to connect to God through our bodies. We stand up, breathe deep, and let loose. And as Augustine wrote, “(S)he who sings, prays twice.”

INVOKING THE HOLY

God is always with us, so this “invoking” or invitation to God, is really an invitation to our own selves to become aware of that constant presence.

One: Loving God, you desire a simple, humble relationship with us. Turn our hearts away from seeking others’ approval and toward your way of mercy and peace. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Confession has a long tradition in Christian history. It is a way to name our own brokenness and failing, sometimes generically and sometimes quite specifically, as a means to cleanse our hearts as we move through the service.

One: We confess our shortcomings before each other and God.
Patient God,

Many: **You have taught us how to be your faithful people.
And yet we persist in going our own way,
doing our own thing,
and minding our own business
when we ought to be about the business of your kin-dom.
Forgive our selfish neglect of others and ourselves.
Bring us back into wholeness with our siblings in creation.
Amen.**

SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

A brief moment to reflect on the prayer and your own heart and life. Silence is as important as noise in our dialogue with the divine.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

As a people of Easter, there is always good news: when we die to our brokenness, we live again in hope.

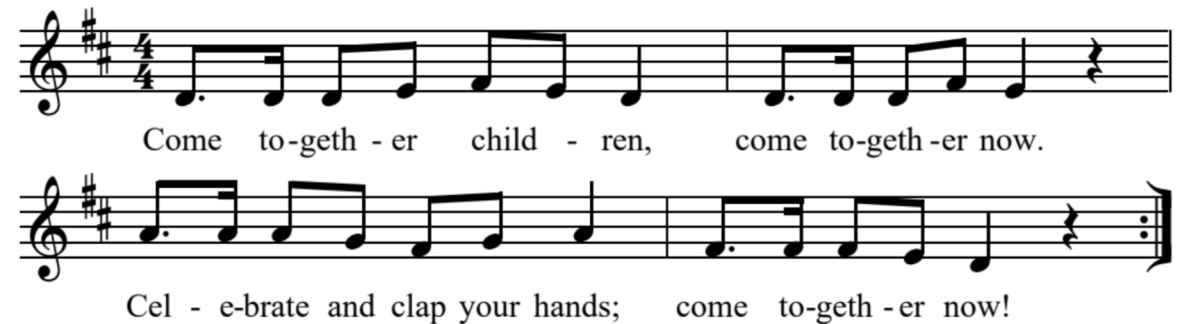
One: God is merciful, patient, kind, and forgiving. May we give now as we have received: generously and extravagantly. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Passing the Peace is an ancient Christian tradition in which we show we carry no weapons, only love.

CHILDREN’S CELEBRATION

Children are very important to our church. Each service they come forward for a special lesson just for them. We want all children to know they are welcome everywhere in our sanctuary, even—especially—at the very front. Today the kids will help us celebrate the baptisms of Angel, Persephone, Galahad, and Raxus Pepe.



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has the lyrics "Come to-gether child - ren, come to-gether now." The second staff has the lyrics "Cel - ebrate and clap your hands; come to-gether now!". The music consists of simple eighth and quarter notes.

Meaning

One: Dear friends, as we come to this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism. Baptism is a visible manifestation of the invisible grace of God. By taking part in the waters, as Jesus once did, we die to our self and rise up to a life of discipleship and praise. We embrace of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as in a rushing stream. Baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark our acceptance into the care of

Christ's church, the sign and seal of our participation in God's co-creation, and the beginning of our growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**All: This is the water of baptism.
Out of this water we rise into a new life,
marked as beloved members of Christ's body.**

Questions

Affirmation of Faith

One: Do you have faith in God?

All: I have faith in God.

One: Do you have faith in Jesus Christ?

All: I have faith in Jesus Christ.

One: Do you have faith in the Holy Spirit?

All: I have faith in the Holy Spirit.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Prayer

**All: Give to Angel, Persephone, Galahad, and Raxus
strength for life's journey,
courage in time of suffering,
the joy of faith,
the freedom of love,
and the hope of new life;
through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.**

PSALM 20 Tom Corrieri

Robert Alter translation, modified for inclusive language

Translator Robert Alter describe the psalms as "the most urgently, personally present of all the books of the Bible...(u)ntold numbers have repeatedly turned to Psalms for encouragement and comfort in moments of crisis and despair," despite having been composed long ago (1600 and 1200 BCE) for and by a community in the ancient Near East.

The "you" in this psalm is a king, so this is a prayer for a king's welfare. How does it sound, though, if the "you" is you?

May the Lord answer you on the day of distress,
the name of Jacob's God make you safe.

May God send help to you from the sanctum,
and from Zion may God sustain you.

May God recall all your grain-offerings,
and your burnt-offerings may God relish.

May God grant you what your heart would want,
and all your counsels may God fulfill.

Let us sing gladly for Your rescue
and in our God's name our banner raise.

May the LORD fulfill all your desires.

Now do I know

that the LORD has recused the anointed.

God has answered them from the holy heavens
in the might of God's right hand rescue.

They—the chariots, and they—the horses,
but we—the name of the LORD our God invoke.

They have tumbled and fallen
but we arose and took heart.

O LORD, rescue the king.

May God answer us on the day we call.

GOSPEL Matthew 6:1-15

New Revised Standard Version, modified for inclusive language

Gospel means "good news," making the full title of this book of the Bible "The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew." We will stay in this book of the Bible until after Easter.

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Creator in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Creator who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Creator who is in secret; and your Creator who sees in secret will reward you.

"When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Creator knows what you need before you ask.

"When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your God knows what you need before you ask.

"Pray then in this way: Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For if

you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Creator will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Creator forgive your trespasses.

SERMON

HYMN OF REFLECTION "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" (insert)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Please share your prayer needs as you are so moved.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

The basics of the Lord's Prayer appear in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. It may be familiar to you in this form, or with "sins" or "trespasses" toward the end. We also support the use of traditional or contemporary language for addressing the holy and naming the holy's realm.

Our Father/Creator who art in heaven/the cosmos, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom/kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven/the cosmos. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom/kin-dom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.

OFFERING "Seek ye First" arr. Douglas Wagner
Chancel Choir

In 2019, nine percent of our total budget helps fund local, regional, and national charitable programs. On the third Sunday of each month, when we have Holy Communion, loose change and bills are designated for a Communion Fund which supports our in-house Pastoral Emergency Fund, which goes to rental, medical, and similar direct assistance. You can also designate your gift to the Pastoral Emergency Fund directly at any time. If you would like to sign up for automated giving, contact Katie Tschopp at 515-232-9323 or office@amesucc.org.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF SENDING “May the God of Hope Go with Us” (insert)

BENEDICTION

From the Latin of “well” and “to speak,” this is one final good word to send us off.

Calendar for the Week

Monday, February 4

5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence
Project (Nadolny)

Tuesday, February 5

5:30 p.m. AMOS Ames Cluster
Meeting

Wednesday, February 6

10:45 a.m. Study for Sunday
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
2:00 p.m. Wed Afternoon Club
5:00 p.m. Youth Group
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Little Bit of Everything

Sunday, February 10

9:15 a.m. Godly Play
9:15 a.m. Youth Group
9:15 a.m. Learning Center
10:30 a.m. Worship

Thank You for Your Patience with Our Sound System

Our sound system is on its last legs. As we wait for the installation of our new one (as late as March), please do not hesitate to move to a different seat or area in the church so as not to strain or be deafened.

Wednesday Night dinners are back! – 2/6

Because we love to spend time together, the Building Relationships team will sponsor meals this spring on Wednesdays, Feb. 6 and May 1 (with more opportunities to be together in March and April's Lenten Soup Suppers). Come between 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. for food, informal social time, and stick around for A Little Bit of Everything, Chancel Choir, or Youth Group. There is no charge for the meal, but a free will offering will be accepted to help with costs.

Little Bit of Everything – 2/6

This program year, on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. (with exceptions, like Lent), join Pr. Eileen Gebbie for an exploration of the history, practices, and theology (theologies) of the United Church of Christ through video, conversation, and activities. Below are the dates for the balance of this program year: Feb 6, May 1, May 15.

Conversation on Immigration Issues with The Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy and Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller – Save the Date for 3/1

Ames UCC's 2019 Theologian in Residence Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy and Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller will jointly discuss immigration issues at a special Friday night event sponsored by the Committee on Lectures at Iowa State University. Dr. Vásquez-Levy lived in Iowa at the time of the Postville immigration raid, and he is now a nationally known leader in working with churches and governments to address immigration problems. He currently serves as president of Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, Calif. Attorney General Miller has been active in opposing Trump administration policies such as family separation and inclusion of citizenship as a census question.

Friday, March 1, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., ISU Memorial Union Pioneer Room

This event is free and open to the public. It will serve as the kick-off for our annual Theologian-in-Residence day-long event “Immigration Matters: Journeying Together, Responding to Crisis” Saturday, March 2 at our church. Learn more at amesucc.org/tir.

How we live out our church's public mission in the world

AMOS 2-Day Training

This training is open to newcomers to organizing and relational culture, as well as old-timers. It will feature trainers and organizers from across the Industrial Areas Foundation alliance (the national body AMOS is affiliated with). We do not do the work of healing the world alone!

Grace United Methodist Church in Des Moines on Friday, March 8 at 3:30 p.m. through Saturday, March 9 at 5 p.m.

RSVP to Ben Schrag (mr.half@gmail.com) or Pr. Eileen (eileen@amesucc.org).

Ames UCC Orientation Luncheon & Tour – Save the Date for 4/7

New or new-ish to Ames UCC? Did last week’s new member service make you want to know more? Join Prs. Hannah and Eileen and members of our Building Relationships team for an orientation to the church including a tour of the facilities (creepy basement!) and a free lunch. We will begin after worship on Sunday, April 7 and be done in less than two hours. We will include information on becoming a member during worship on Sunday, April 21 (Easter!), if you are interested. Joining is not required to be active in the life of this church. Childcare available on request. RSVP to Pr. Eileen by Sunday, March 31: eileen@amesucc.org, 515-232-9323. If you have already attended an orientation and would like to become a member on Easter, you do not have to attend the lunch again. Just let Pr. Eileen know of your interest.

Be In Touch with Ames UCC Staff

217 6th Street, Ames, IA 50010
515-232-9323

Mon-Thurs 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

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Ames UCC Team Leadership

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Lynette Spicer, Clerk
Diana McHenry, Church Representative
Eric Abbott, Church Representative

Building Relationships

Ben Schrag, Nancy Dunn

Christian Education

Allison Anderson

Financial Stewardship

Bradley Duckstein

Social Justice and Outreach

Linda Best, George Belitsos

Property

Jan Bauer, Laurie Olk

Worship and Music

Barbara Faidley, Steve Rogers-Smith

Get in touch with a team leader with the information in your church directory. Contact Katie Tschopp (515-232-9323, office@amesucc.org) if you need a copy.